THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The international economic recession has adversely affected the export market of Indian industry, including the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and in particular, sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, etc. have been mainly affected. The micro and small enterprises (MSEs) working in these sectors, as a percentage of total MSEs, are 3.7% (textiles), 1.4% (leather), 1.3% (gems and jewellery) and 0.2% (auto components).

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the impact of international economic recession, the Government has announced several economic measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs. According to available information, the auto component sector and textile products have shown signs of recovery. Full impact of the stimulus packages, however, is expected to be seen in the coming months.

Reduction of tatkal charges

237. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to reduce the charges of tatkal tickets to protect the interests of poor passengers at least for the sleeper class;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The matter is under review.

Encroachment of Railway land

†238. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large expanse of prime land under Railways ownership has been encroached upon by unauthorized person and land mafia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railways to clear the encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Railway land measuring 1023 hectares is under encroachments involving a total of 140177 encroachments. These encroachments are existing since long. Railways are engaged in continuous exercise to remove encroachments from Railway land.

Rail projects in NER

239. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway lines from Rangia to Murkongsilec being upgraded from meter gauge to broad gauge;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.